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Haushaltungsstatistik, Eine literarhistorische und methodologische Untersuchung. By GERHARD ALBRECHT. (Berlin: Carl Heymanns Verlag. 1912. Pp. viii, 126. 3.60 m.)

In an historical study of family budgets the author found the principal defect of the various investigators to be a lack of uniformity in method. He has therefore kept two points in view in this treatise, first to emphasize the importance of method and second to trace the development of the various methods from the broad and general treatment of family budgets by the earlier authors to the more narrow and precise analyses of the modern economists.

In its final analysis nothing is more richly significant of the economic well-being or otherwise of a community or people than their family budgets, true accounts of the incomes and expenditures of typical families. Only through an intimate knowledge of family budgets can an adequate notion be had of consumption, saving, profits, increase in productive goods, etc. The author points out that the entire modern tendency of economic theory hinges upon conceptions acquired through a study of original sources, chief among which are family budgets. A comparative study of family budgets on a large scale is also of great importance in any study of the possible changes in the value of gold as measured against prices. The statistics of family budgets, when properly grouped and compared with due reference both to time and place, throw much light also upon the causes and consequences of social and economic phenomena.

The first historical period or phase of development of family budgets closes, according to our author, with the appearance of the great work of Ed. Ducpétiaux entitled *Budgets Economiques des Classes Ouvrières en Belgique* (1855). To this period belong the English writers on political arithmetic; including Graunt, Petty, King, and Davenant. Here also is included Arthur Young's *Farmers Letters* (1767), the work of David Davies, A. Young, son of Arthur Young, and the important contribution of Sir Frederic Morten Eden (1797), entitled *The State of the Poor, or an History of the Labouring Classes in England*. Eden's classical work contained in its mass of information 73 complete budgets. Dr. Michael Jack, in Munich in 1816, and Ballin, in Saxony in 1841, contributed slightly to the literature of family budgets in Germany.

The results of the inquiry made by Ed. Ducpétiaux in Belgium were influenced by Eden's report and had also the benefit of the advice of Quetelet, the famous statistician. The final report appeared in 1855 and contained 83 city and 104 rural family budgets. The method of analysis was the best up to that time and among other features a distinction is made between money-wage and other sources of income. Families were separated according to whether or not the mother and children contributed to the total income. Expenditures were separated into three main classes—expenditures for physical and material needs, for religious, moral and spiritual needs, and for luxuries, and on account of improvidence.

After Ducpétiaux came two of the chief exemplars of what Albrecht terms the isolating method. These were Le Play in his *Les Ouvriers Européens* and Schnapper-Arndt in his various contributions to the German economic literature on family budgets.

The final and most informing, because most scientific, period of development is that termed the bookkeeping period. Leading exponents of this method have been Ernst Engel, Lexis, and other prominent economists not only of Germany, but of other countries as well. The bookkeeping method is a method that has been followed with success in many recent government investigations. Forms of accounts under this method can be prepared in advance and this makes possible a more detailed and uniform classification of income and expenditures than is otherwise obtainable. Since the needs of the investigation can thus be provided for in advance, the results are dependent chiefly upon the accuracy and extent of the accounts which can be secured.

In this treatise of 126 pages Dr. Albrecht has brought together an immense amount of material not elsewhere readily available. The bibliography of the German literature on the subject of family budgets, is, by itself, an extremely valuable contribution to knowledge and this extends through nearly 13 closely printed pages. The author's discussion of the theory of family budgets, the fundamental principles upon which they should be based, and the art of so arranging the statistics as to make them most informing are well worth the serious study of any writer on economics who may wish to get at the basis of distribution, consumption, wages, prices, surplus of production goods, and all the other primal factors which are best revealed through

family budgets. The author has not attempted to appraise some of the notable works in English of recent times such as Booth's great work on the London poor, Rowntrees' *York, A Study of Poverty*, More's *Wage-Earners Budgets*, Chapin's *The Standard of Living in New York City*, Streightoff's *The Standard of Living Among the Industrial People of America*, and many other important recent contributions to the world literature of family budgets.

Dr. Albrecht's work will remain for a long time the standard convenient summary of the history, theory, and method of household statistics.

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Soziologie und Statistik. By FRANZ ZIZEK. (Leipzig: Verlag von Duncker und Humblot. 1912. Pp. 47. 1.50 m.)

The author of this pamphlet wishes to show a real connection between sociology and statistics. He describes the founding of the German Statistical Society, a division of the Sociological Society, as evidence of the effort to establish closer relations between the two sciences. The significance of statistics for the investigation of conditions among civilized people is pointed out and certain prominent European sociologists who have recognized this fact are cited—Schäffle, De Greef, Durkheim, and Tarde. The kinds of statistical data significant for sociology are briefly reviewed, and in more detail the author discusses four phases of social investigation in which statistics are especially of service: (1) the structure of society—the classes of the population, the division of labor, and the organization of activity; (2) the temporary character of the stability of social phenomena—the discussion passes from the old point of view, that observed regularities among social phenomena was a law of God, to the view held by Quetelet that such uniformities constitute a law of nature, and finally to the modern ideas of change and evolution; (3) statistics are useful in showing causal relations; (4) statistics also measure and record the phenomena which show the evolution of the human race and the improvement of the race. Students in America have long been familiar with these same ideas in the writings of Richmond Mayo-Smith, especially in his volume entitled *Statistics and Sociology*.

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